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COMPLETE

Collector: Email Invitation 1 (Email)
Started: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 9:33:00 PM
Last Modified: Monday, December 10, 2018 4:38:22 PM
Time Spent: Over a month
First Name: Karen
Last Name: Richardson
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Custom Data: Los Angeles
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Page 2: B. Contact Information

Q1 1. County Name **Los Angeles**

Q2 2. Select the department you are representing. **Child Welfare
Department**

Q3 3. Contact Information (Child Welfare)

Name of Contact Person **Karen D. Richardson**
Department Name **Children & Family Services**
Email Address **karen.richardson@dcfs.lacounty.gov**
Phone Number **(213) 351-5858**

Q4 4. Contact Information (Probation)

Name of Contact Person **NA**
Department Name **NA**
Email Address **NA**
Phone Number **NA**

Page 3: C-1. Overall Recruitment Goals and Congregate Care Reduction Goals

Q5 1. Recruitment goal for non-related caregivers (Child Welfare): **Percent Increase (%) 25**
Number Increase (#) 207

Q6 2. Recruitment goal for non-related caregivers (Probation): **Percent Increase (%) 0**
Number Increase (#) 0

Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support (FPRRS) FY 2017-18 Outcomes and FY 2018-19 Allocation
Plan Report

Q7 3. Recruitment goal for relative/NREFM caregivers (Child Welfare):	Percent Increase (%)	10
	Number Increase (#)	900

Q8 4. Recruitment goal for relative/NREFM caregivers (Probation):	Percent Increase (%)	0
	Number Increase (#)	0

Page 4: C-2. Overall Recruitment Goals and Congregate Care Reduction Goals

Q9 1. Recruitment goal for non-related caregivers (Child Welfare):	Percent Increase (%)	25
	Number Increase (#)	207

Q10 2. Recruitment goal for non-related caregivers (Probation):	Percent Increase (%)	0
	Number Increase (#)	0

Q11 3. Recruitment goal for relative/NREFM caregivers (Child Welfare):	Percent Increase (%)	10
	Number Increase (#)	900

Q12 4. Recruitment goal for relative/NREFM caregivers (Probation):	Percent Increase (%)	0
	Number Increase (#)	0

Page 5: C-3. Overall Recruitment Goals and Congregate Care Reduction Goals

Q13 1. How many children in {{ Q1 }} County were in congregate care on June 30, 2018 (include children placed out-of-county)?	Child Welfare	896
	Probation	0

Q14 2. What was the goal for reducing congregate care placements during this time (Child Welfare)?	Percent Decrease (%)	10
	Number Decrease (#)	109

Q15 3. What was the goal for reducing congregate care placements during this time (Probation)?	Percent Decrease (%)	0
	Number Decrease (#)	0

Page 6: C-4. Overall Recruitment Goals and Congregate Care Reduction Goals

Q16 1. How many children in {{ Q1 }} County do you estimate will remain in congregate care on June 30, 2019?	Child Welfare	0
	Probation	0

Page 7: D-1.1 Family Finding

Q17 1. Please briefly recap {{ Q1 }} County's FY 2017-18 goals for Family Finding, as outlined in your FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. Please note if the goals evolved over the course of the year, and any significant insights gained while pursuing these goals. If {{ Q1 }} County did not have a specific goal for Family Finding in FY 2017-18, please briefly explain why a specific goal was not needed.

L A County did not have a specific goal for Family Finding outlined in our FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. However, we continued to provide family finding through our Permanency Partners Program (P3). P3 utilizes part-time and retired Children’s Social Workers to identify, locate, and engage relatives for youth in care. The goal is to offer families the opportunity to be involved in a related child’s life in a variety of ways including phone calls, visitation, placement and possible permanency, as well as to support parents’ reunification efforts via help with transportation, monitoring visits, encouragement, accountability, etc.

In addition to the ‘traditional’ family finding services P3 provided to youth in care, as noted in our FY 2016-17 FPRRS plan, the P3 program began to offer dedicated Upfront Family Finding (UPFF) services for newly detained children not immediately placed with relatives or NREFMs in two pilot offices. These services include not only the aforementioned opportunity for family involvement, but WIC 309 relative notification as well.

The success of this program led to the expansion of the pilot to include two additional offices in FY 2017-18, where the same gains of increased relative engagement and placements were noted as in the original pilot offices.

Page 8: D-1.2 Family Finding

Q18 1. Which specific services and supports did Family Finding activities provide? Select ALL that apply.	Family Finding & Other Databases	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Family Finding Support & Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Staff Training	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q19 2. Please describe in detail how Family Finding activities were implemented.

In Los Angeles County, Family Finding activities are implemented via our P3 Program. Since 2004, the P3 Program has utilized part-time and retired Children’s Social Workers to identify, locate and engage relatives for youth in care. P3 social workers are secondary assignments on the case who focus exclusively on family finding and engagement. Their goal is to offer families the opportunity to be involved in a related child’s life in a variety of ways including phone calls, visitation, placement and possible permanency, as well as to support parents’ reunification efforts via help with transportation, monitoring visits, encouragement, accountability, etc.

P3’s traditional services are provided to youth who have been in out-of-home care for over three years, while dedicated Upfront Family Finding is provided to newly detained children who are not initially placed with relatives or NREFMs.

In January 2018 the Upfront Family Finding pilot expanded to include two additional offices (four in total).

Q20 3. Does {{ Q1 }} County have an ongoing sustainability plan for these activities? A sustainability plan can include efforts by {{ Q1 }} County or by other parties.	YES (please describe): Yes, Family Finding for children who had been in care for over three years has been in practice in Los Angeles for over 14 years and continued during this period. Upfront Family Finding work began in two offices in 2016 and expanded to two additional offices in 2018. Planning is currently underway to potentially expand to five additional offices in 2019.
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Page 9: D-1.2 Family Finding

Q21 3a. Does {{ Q1 }} County intend to fund these activities after FPRRS funding has ceased?	YES
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Page 10: D-1.2 Family Finding

Q22 4. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County met its goals.

As noted previously, Los Angeles County did not establish a specific goal for Family Finding in the FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. However, there was an increase in the number of P3 referrals for children who had been in care for an extended length of time as more regional social workers became familiar with the services and the assistance the Family Finding staff could provide. In addition, Family Finding activities were on of the startegies used when individualized transition plans were developed for children in congregate (group home) care.

The department was able to successfully expand its Upfront Family Finding from two to four offices in FY 2017-18, and continued to noted increased rates of relative placements within those offices.

Q23 5. Please describe any advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Family Finding activities.

For successful family finding outcomes, partnership and teaming is mandatory. It is also crtical to have the buy in from management/leadership to assist in creating an office culture that values relative engagement and placements.

Q24 6. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County did not meet its goals.

Not applicable

Q25 7. For any unmet goals, tell us the barriers and/or challenges which prevented the goal from being met. Are there any lessons learned from the attempt to meet the goal which may be disseminated to other counties facing similar circumstances?

Not applicable

Q26 8. Please describe any noteworthy barriers to implementation, advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Family Finding activities, not already described above.

The largest barrier to family finding and engagement is adequate staffing and resources. Additionally, the CWS/CMS structure does not support the integration of systematic documentation.

Page 11: D-1.3 Family Finding

Q27 1. If these activities affected children in care, please enter the number of children affected.

1214

Q28 2. Please briefly state how they were affected.

During FY 2017-18, 1,214 children were served by P3 through traditional and Upfront Family Finding services in Los Angeles County. Through our family finding and engagement work, approximately 43% of the children and youth receiving services had a new legally permanent plan identified or established: 293 children returned home; 167 children had a plan of adoption; 53 children had a plan of KinGap; and 7 had a plan of legal guardianship. An additional 312 children had life-long connections identified after family finding services.

Q29 3. If these activities affected caregivers, please enter the number of caregivers affected.

735

Q30 4. Please briefly state how they were affected.

Through the efforts of both Upfront Family Finding and our traditional P3 Family Finding services, 735 relatives were affected during FY 2017-18 as follows:

- 172 relatives adopted children
- 26 relatives had children in adoptive placements
- 57 relatives were appointed as legal guardians and their cases were closed (KinGap)
- 12 relatives were appointed as legal guardians with continued court supervision
- 9 relatives were in the process of obtaining legal guardianship prior to case closing
- 106 relatives are in a legal guardianship plan and are moving through the court process
- 353 relatives were identified to serve as a support for children/youth

Q31 5. Given the outcomes achieved, please describe what (if anything) {{ Q1 }} County would do differently to address its Family Finding goals, or what you intend to change going forward.

Given the success of our Family Finding and engagement work, Los Angeles County is looking to expand the Upfront Family Finding pilot to additional offices.

Page 12: D-1.4 Family Finding

Q32 1. FPRRS - State General Fund

0

Q33 2. FPRRS - Federal IV-E

0

Q34 3. Non-FPRRS

10329000

Page 13: D-1.5 Family Finding

Q35 1. Will {{ Q1 }} County continue to address the unmet goals?

YES (Please provide additional information and/or any proposed new activities involved.):
As a result of the positive outcomes of Upfront Family Finding services, Los Angeles County is planning to expand our activities to additional regional offices during FY 2018-19.

Q36 2. Does {{ Q1 }} County have any new goals related to Family Finding for FY 2018-19? **NO**

Page 14: D-2.1 Outreach

Q37 1. Please briefly recap {{ Q1 }} County's FY 2017-18 goals for Outreach, as outlined in your FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. Please note if the goals evolved over the course of the year, and any significant insights gained while pursuing these goals. If {{ Q1 }} County did not have a specific goal for Outreach in FY 2017-18, please briefly explain why a specific goal was not needed.

Our FY 2017-2018 FPRRS plan included a 25% increase non-related caregivers by completing the following Outreach activities:

- 1) Expanding Recruitment/Expo Events - In partnership with our community partners, informational sessions are held to target a specific area or group and are designed to engage the community and increase public knowledge of the need for resource families. Community partners include county and city officials, faith partners, school districts, police and fire departments, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs), and local businesses. The events feature panel discussions with existing caregivers and foster youth and the opportunity for families to register to attend an orientation with DCFS or the FFA.
- 2) Expanding Fostering Home Events - These events assemble several resources so that prospective caregivers can complete multiple steps of the application process in one place. Participants are able to attend an orientation session, obtain health screenings and TB tests, complete live scans, and receive paperwork assistance at the events. Community resources (i.e. public libraries, child care agencies, etc.) are also in attendance to demonstrate the ongoing support available for resource families.
- 3) Marketing Campaign - We contracted with a public relations firm to plan and help implement a marketing campaign and develop a communications strategy to increase the recruitment of resource families in L A County.
- 4) Postcard Outreach Campaign - This campaign involves reaching out to families who had expressed an interest in becoming a resource parent, but did not begin the application process. Postcards are mailed to families to remind them that there continues to be a need for resource families and that we are available to assist them with the process. It also allows us to share other ways families can be a resource to children (i.e. mentoring, volunteering, etc.).

Over the course of the year, the goals evolved as our county had to focus our limited staffing resources on processing the high volume of resource family approval (RFA) applications. Focus was given to relatives and non-related extended family members with children placed on an emergency basis so that they would be able to receive foster care funding. Our county did not implement the outreach activities as planned. Due to the delays in our ability to process applications from recruited families, we worked with our FFAs and referred families to them to be processed.

Page 15: D-2.2 Outreach

Q38 1. Which specific services and supports did Outreach activities provide? Select ALL that apply.

Recruitment & Outreach

Q39 2. Please describe in detail how Outreach activities were implemented.

Due to the high volume of RFA applications for relative and non-related extended family members our county received and our limited staffing resources, we did not implement our planned Outreach activities in FY 2017-18. To keep families engaged who had already been recruited, our Outreach staff were repurposed to focus on personalized follow-up with families. This involved telephone contact with the families to explain they could be assessed by a FFA instead if they were interested. For those that did not want to work with a FFA, we provided regular telephone contact, assisted them with enrolling in the pre-approval training, provided guidance around the completion of the required paperwork so that they would be ready for the family evaluation process to be completed by the RFA social worker.

Q40 3. Does {{ Q1 }} County have an ongoing sustainability plan for these activities? A sustainability plan can include efforts by {{ Q1 }} County or by other parties.	YES (please describe): Los Angeles County has eliminated the backlog of RFA applications and is now in the position to implement Outreach activities in FY 2018-19. Los Angeles County will continue to work with our community partners and philanthropic organizations around recruitment and retention activities. We also plan to continue to utilize State (AB2129) funds for our events.
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Page 16: D-2.2 Outreach

Q41 3a. Does {{ Q1 }} County intend to fund these activities after FPRRS funding has ceased?	NO (Please describe alternate methods by which {{ Q1 }} County intends to provide the services and supports by these activities.): Los Angeles County plans to utilize AB2129 funds to support Outreach activities once FPRRS funding has ceased.
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Page 17: D-2.2 Outreach

Q42 4. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County met its goals.

Los Angeles County's Outreach goals for FY 2017-18 evolved over the course of the year due to challenges with RFA implementation. The Outreach activities identified in our FY2017-18 FPRRS plan were deferred, and families who inquired about becoming a resource family through our county were referred to FFAs. For the families that did not want to work with FFAs, our Outreach and Recruitment staff assisted the families with the RFA documentation while they were pending assignment to a RFA social worker.

Q43 5. Please describe any advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Outreach activities.

Not applicable

Q44 6. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County did not meet its goals.

During FY 2016-17, Los Angeles County approved 312 recruited families. In FY 2017-18 we approved 189 recruited families, so we did not meet our goal of increasing non related caregivers by 25%. We were not able to fully implement our planned Outreach activities due to challenges with RFA implementation. Our Outreach and Recruitment staff were re-purposed to focus more on preparing families that had already been recruited to go through the approval process. Los Angeles County also worked with our FFAs and referred families to them to be assessed.

Q45 7. For any unmet goals, tell us the barriers and/or challenges which prevented the goal from being met. Are there any lessons learned from the attempt to meet the goal which may be disseminated to other counties facing similar circumstances?

The RFA section faced major staffing challenges which prevented our Outreach goal from being met. A backlog of RFA applications developed that needed to be processed. Our focus shifted to ensuring that families who were already in the process were assessed as quickly as possible. Recruitment goals were modified in that families were given the option to be assessed by FFAs. Furthermore, the Outreach and Recruitment staff started to focus their attention on families who were already in process and assisting them to prepare for their family evaluation.

Q46 8. Please describe any noteworthy barriers to implementation, advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Outreach activities, not already described above.

Not applicable

Page 18: D-2.3 Outreach

Q47 1. If these activities affected children in care, please enter the number of children affected.

964

Q48 2. Please briefly state how they were affected.

During FY 2017-18, we had approximately 964 children who were placed in Group Homes or shelters. While our Upfront Family Finding efforts led to the identification of relatives/NREFMS for 30 children in congregate care to be placed with family, our inability to actively outreach and recruit resource families limited our ability to increase our home-based family care capacity for children in need of out-of-home care placement.

Q49 3. If these activities affected caregivers, please enter the number of caregivers affected.

3752

Q50 4. Please briefly state how they were affected.

During FY 2017-18, 3,752 families inquired with Los Angeles County about becoming a resource family. While the families were educated about our need for resource families and received information that dispelled myths and stereotypes about children in foster care, the majority did not attend an in person or complete the online orientation, submit an application or proceed with the approval process. Our Postcard Campaign, which we deferred implementing, was designed to keep these families engaged so that they would consider proceeding with the approval process when they are ready.

Q51 5. Given the outcomes achieved, please describe what (if anything) {{ Q1 }} County would do differently to address its Outreach goals, or what you intend to change going forward.

In order to address the barriers and challenges that impacted our ability to implement Outreach activities, Los Angeles County increased the number of staff assigned to process RFA applications. Over a three month period 100 new staff were assigned.

We also contracted with a non-profit organization, Kinship Insight Solutions LLC, dba A Second Chance Inc (ASCI) to assist in developing protocols and procedures to streamline our processing of RFA applications. Finally, to address the backlog of RFA applications, we implemented an "All Hands on Deck" project to ensure all pending applications were dispositioned. These efforts have enabled Los Angeles County to eliminate the RFA backlog and we are now prepared to implement Outreach activities in FY 2018-19.

Page 19: D-2.4 Outreach

Q52 1. FPRRS - State General Fund

0

Q53 2. FPRRS - Federal IV-E

0

Q54 3. Non-FPRRS

26250

Page 20: D-2.5 Outreach

Q55 1. Will {{ Q1 }} County continue to address the unmet goals?	YES (Please provide additional information and/or any proposed new activities involved.): Los Angeles County plans to implement the Outreach activities previously included in our FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan which are: Resource Family Recruitment/Expos Fostering Home Events Marketing Campaign Postcard Outreach Campaign
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Q56 2. Does {{ Q1 }} County have any new goals related to Outreach for FY 2018-19?	<p>YES (Please describe these new goals in detail. Please include how your existing activities will address these new goals and, if applicable, please outline any new Outreach activities that you are proposing to implement to address these goals.):</p> <p>Los Angeles County has two new goals related to Outreach for FY 2018-19. One goal is to implement a marketing campaign focused on: 1) FFA Engagement 2) Philanthropy Engagement 3) Faith Organizations 4) Outreach to Existing Resources Families 5) Outreach to Specific Audiences (Spanish Language Families, LGBT Families, Millennials) 6) Targeted Recruitment (Children 0-5; Sexually Exploited Children; Non-minor Dependents, Deaf/Hearing Impaired) 7) Community Events/Booths 8) Social Media In order to enhance our approval process, we also plan to purchase five portable Live Scan machines with printers. This will allow our trained Live Scan Technicians the ability travel to the home of families who are unable go to a location to Live Scan. It was also allow for our technicians to process Live Scans at the offices of our community based agencies that provide our pre-approval training, and during our outreach events. We also plan to provide RFA Tool Kits to prospective caregivers to assist them in understanding and completing the RFA process.</p>
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Page 21: D-3.1 Reducing Congregate Care

Q57 1. Please briefly recap {{ Q1 }} County's FY 2017-18 goals for Reducing Congregate Care, as outlined in your FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. Please note if the goals evolved over the course of the year, and any significant insights gained while pursuing these goals. If {{ Q1 }} County did not have a specific goal for Reducing Congregate Care in FY 2017-18, please briefly explain why a specific goal was not needed.

In our FY 2017-2018 FPRRS plan, Los Angeles County's goal was to reduce Congregate (Group Home) Care by 10%. Over the course of the year, our goal evolved to include preventing children from entering congregate care. We accomplished this by engaging more relatives through our upfront and traditional family finding services, providing a placement stipend to assist relatives/NREFMs with emergency placements; and providing support to relatives/NREFMs (such as support groups, mental health services, tutoring for youth, and emergency funding to assist with after school care, rent and utilities) through our Relative Support Services (RSS) contracts with community based organizations.

Page 22: D-3.2 Reducing Congregate Care

<p>Q58 1. Which specific services and supports did Reducing Congregate Care activities provide? Select ALL that apply.</p>	<div> <div>Caregiver Support,</div> <div>Caregiver Training</div> <div>Concrete Support,</div> <div>Family Finding & Other Databases</div> <div>Family Finding Support & Staff</div> <div>Mental Health Services Coordination</div> <div>Other (please describe):</div> <div>Child and Family Team Meetings; KidSave, a non-profit organization that identifies host families/mentors for youth age 9 and above.</div> </div>
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Q59 2. Please describe in detail how Reducing Congregate Care activities were implemented.

To facilitate the reduction of children in congregate (group home) care, Los Angeles County developed child specific transition plans for each child/youth placed in a group home. These plans included referrals for family finding services, child and family team meetings, and the identification and coordination of speciality mental health services.

To prevent children from entering congregate care, we expanded our family finding services in the county. We also provided an Emergency Placement Stipend to relatives and NREFMs and provided funds through our Relative Home Assessment Services (RHAS) contracts to assist relatives/NREFMs in meeting the RFA home environment standards. Support services were available to our relatives/NREFMs through our Relative Support Services (RSS) contracts that included support groups, mental health services, tutoring for youth and emergency funding.

Los Angeles County also utilized our KidSave program for children and youth age 9 and above. KidSave engages families to be Weekend Hosts, which is a kind of "super-mentor" that advocates to find permanent families for children. The program provides intensive support to the Hosts to help them work with youth who have experience trauma. In FY 2017-18, 41% (11 of 27) youth referred to KidSave that were in congregate care transitioned to a lower level of care.

<p>Q60 3. Does {{ Q1 }} County have an ongoing sustainability plan for these activities? A sustainability plan can include efforts by {{ Q1 }} County or by other parties.</p>	<div> <div>YES (please describe):</div> <div>Los Angeles County plans to expand our upfront family finding services to additional offices, and will continue to provide services to relatives and NREFMS through our RHAS and RSS contracts. The continuation of the services may be impacted if the Title IVE waiver is not extended.</div> </div>
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Q61 3a. Does {{ Q1 }} County intend to fund these activities after FPRRS funding has ceased? **YES**

Page 24: D-3.2 Reducing Congregate Care

Q62 4. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County met its goals.

Los Angeles County's goal for FY 2017-18 was to reduce congregate care by 10%. In June 2017 Los Angeles County had 1,011 children in group home care. In June 2018, there were 896 children in group home care, which is a reduction of 12%.

Q63 5. Please describe any advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Reducing Congregate Care activities.

Engaging community partners, providing enhanced training for existing caregivers and building a network of support for them and the children are best practices that have assisted in reducing congregate care. The training should be focused on how to address the individual and specialized needs of the children in congregate care.

Q64 6. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County did not meet its goals.

Not applicable

Q65 7. For any unmet goals, tell us the barriers and/or challenges which prevented the goal from being met. Are there any lessons learned from the attempt to meet the goal which may be disseminated to other counties facing similar circumstances?

While we were able to meet the goal, the lack of appropriate placement resources continues to be a barrier to transitioning children from congregate care.

Q66 8. Please describe any noteworthy barriers to implementation, advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Reducing Congregate Care activities, not already described above.

Not applicable

Page 25: D-3.3 Reducing Congregate Care

Q67 1. If these activities affected children in care, please enter the number of children affected.

115

Q68 2. Please briefly state how they were affected.

The development of individualized transition plans and the provision of additional services and supports for caregivers allowed for 115 children to transition from congregate care to home based family care.

Q69 3. If these activities affected caregivers, please enter the number of caregivers affected.

0

Q70 4. Please briefly state how they were affected.

N/A

Q71 5. Given the outcomes achieved, please describe what (if anything) {{ Q1 }} County would do differently to address its Reducing Congregate Care goals, or what you intend to change going forward.

Not applicable

Page 26: D-3.4 Reducing Congregate Care

Q72 1. FPRRS - State General Fund

0

Q73 2. FPRRS - Federal IV-E

0

Q74 3. Non-FPRRS

0

Page 27: D-3.5 Reducing Congregate Care

Q75 1. Will {{ Q1 }} County continue to address the unmet goals?

YES (Please provide additional information and/or any proposed new activities involved.):
Los Angeles County will continue to address the goal of reducing congregate care by developing and maintaining individualized transition plans for placed children; expanding our family finding services; and implementing Outreach activities to increase our home-based family care placement capacity.

Q76 2. Does {{ Q1 }} County have any new goals related to Reducing Congregate Care for FY 2018-19?	YES (Please describe these new goals in detail. Please include how your existing activities will address these new goals and, if applicable, please outline any new Reducing Congregate Care activities that you are proposing to implement to address these goals.): Dependent on CDSS licensure of GHs transitioning to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs, Los Angeles County estimates reducing our congregate (group home) care population to 0 by the end of FY 2018-19.
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Page 28: D-4.1 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q77 1. Please briefly recap {{ Q1 }} County's FY 2017-18 goals for Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers, as outlined in your FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. Please note if the goals evolved over the course of the year, and any significant insights gained while pursuing these goals. If {{ Q1 }} County did not have a specific goal for Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers in FY 2017-18, please briefly explain why a specific goal was not needed.

While Los Angeles County's FY2017-18 FPRRS plan did not have a specific goal for Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers, we planned to implement the following activities to support this effort:

Emergency Stipend: At the time of emergency placement, relatives and NREFMs will be given an Emergency Stipend while the family is pending resource family approval. The Department will provide \$400.00 per child placed for the first three months of placement.

Tangible Supports: Tangible supports are targeted items designated to assist caregivers in meeting the immediate needs of babies and toddlers being placed. These items include formula, diapers, training pants, car seats, strollers, cribs and toddler beds. Items are pre-ordered in reasonable quantities to prevent overstocking yet readily available in the regional offices for immediate delivery to caregivers as needed.

Respite Care: A Respite Care Program was developed that included identifying a Respite Care Facilitator, streamlining the respite care approval process, and developing a communication plan to ensure all resource parents were made aware of the program.

Over the course of the year, the plan evolved due to the need to amend out policy for Respite Care, which delayed the full implementation of the program.

Page 29: D-4.2 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q78 1. Which specific services and supports did Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers activities provide? Select ALL that apply.	Concrete Support, Initial Placement Support, Respite Care, Other (please describe): Emergency Placement Stipend
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Q79 2. Please describe in detail how Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers activities were implemented.

In FY 2017-18 we provided an Emergency Placement Stipend to all children placed with relatives and NREFMs of \$400.00 per child for the first 90 days of placement. This stipend was provided until April 2018 when legislation (AB110) was enacted that allowed for temporary funding for caregivers. The total amount of FPRRS funding utilized for the emergency stipend was \$7,564,274.

We also provided 245 families with tangible supports such as beds, car seats, diapers, etc. to stabilize and/or remove barriers to home based family care placements.

Q80 3. Does {{ Q1 }} County have an ongoing sustainability plan for these activities? A sustainability plan can include efforts by {{ Q1 }} County or by other parties.

YES (please describe):
With the implementation of AB 1811, which allows for emergency caregiver funding pending resource family approval, the Emergency Placement Stipend is no longer necessary. Tangible supports will continue to be provided to our relatives/NREFMs through our RSS Contracts, however once FPRRS funding has ceased Los Angeles County will need to partner with philanthropic or community organizations to obtain tangible supports for non-related caregivers.

Page 30: D-4.2 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q81 3a. Does {{ Q1 }} County intend to fund these activities after FPRRS funding has ceased?

NO (Please describe alternate methods by which {{ Q1 }} County intends to provide the services and supports by these activities.):
As previously noted, the Emergency Placement Stipend is no longer necessary due to the passage of AB1811 - Emergency Caregiver Funding. While tangible supports will be available to relatives/NREFMS after FPRRS funding has ceased thorough our RSS contracts, these supports will not be available to non-related caregivers. Depending on the extension of the Title IVE Waiver, Los Angeles County will determine if we can continue to provide these services and supports, or partner with philanthropic and community organizations to obtain tangible supports.

Page 31: D-4.2 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q82 4. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County met its goals.

Los Angeles County met our goal of Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers by providing an emergency placement stipend to all children placed with relatives and NREFMs during FY 2017-18. We also provided tangible supports to 245 families, which included basic necessities such as diapers, car seats, formula and cribs to remove placements barriers.

We also contract with 10 community based organizations that provide Relative Home Assessment Services (RHAS) to relatives/NREFMs. These services included assisting relatives/NREFMs with the RFA approval process by preparing the home for the home environment assessment process; providing pre-approval training; and completing a support assessment to determine the services needed to facilitate successful placements.

In addition, our Relative Support Services (RSS) Contractors provided \$486,000 (non-FPRRS) emergency funds to relatives/NREFMs to cover rent, utilities and child care to stabilize placements.

Q83 5. Please describe any advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers activities.

Not applicable

Q84 6. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County did not meet its goals.

Not applicable

Q85 7. For any unmet goals, tell us the barriers and/or challenges which prevented the goal from being met. Are there any lessons learned from the attempt to meet the goal which may be disseminated to other counties facing similar circumstances?

Not applicable

Q86 8. Please describe any noteworthy barriers to implementation, advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers activities, not already described above.

A noteworthy barrier to providing tangible supports was to ensure that space was available in our regional offices to ensure the goods would be readily available when needed.

Page 32: D-4.3 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q87 1. If these activities affected children in care, please enter the number of children affected.

0

Q88 2. Please briefly state how they were affected.

We are unable to quantify the number of children affected by providing the Emergency Placement Stipend, Tangible Supports and RHAS and RSS to relatives/NREFMs. However, by providing these activities, children were able to be placed in home based-family care and in many instances, maintain family connections.

Q89 3. If these activities affected caregivers, please enter the number of caregivers affected.

0

Q90 4. Please briefly state how they were affected.

We are unable to quantify the number of caregivers affected by these activities. Assisting relative/NREFM caregivers with placement stipends allowed for temporary financial assistance to facilitate emergency placements, which helped to maintain family connections and placement stability.

The RHAS contract providers removed placement barriers by ensuring relatives and NREFMs met the home environment assessment standards established in the RFA Written Directives. RHAS providers also provided pre-approval training to all relative/NREFM caregivers to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to appropriately care for children who have experienced trauma.

The RSS contract providers stabilized placements by providing emergency financial assistance to cover rent, utilities and child care for relatives/NREFM caregivers.

Q91 5. Given the outcomes achieved, please describe what (if anything) {{ Q1 }} County would do differently to address its Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers goals, or what you intend to change going forward.

Los Angeles County plans to increase the number of families supported by the RSS contacts, and continue to fully implement out Respite Care Program for all county approved caregivers.

Page 33: D-4.4 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q92 1. FPRRS - State General Fund

7564274

Q93 2. FPRRS - Federal IV-E

0

Q94 3. Non-FPRRS

11486000

Page 34: D-4.5 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q95 1. Will {{ Q1 }} County continue to address the unmet goals?

YES (Please provide additional information and/or any proposed new activities involved.):
Los Angeles County will continue to meet the goals of Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers for relatives/NREFMs through RHAS and RSS contracts. With FPRRS funding, we will continue to provide Tangible Supports to remove barriers to placements of infants and toddlers. We will also increase our Respite Care reimbursement from \$3.00 to \$10.00 per hour per child to encourage more caregivers to provide respite care. Our Respite Care policy will be modified to streamline our process and ensure easier access to respite care services.

Q96 2. Does {{ Q1 }} County have any new goals related to Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers for FY 2018-19? **NO**

Page 35: D-5.1 Supporting Caregivers

Q97 1. Please briefly recap {{ Q1 }} County's FY 2017-18 goals for Supporting Caregivers, as outlined in your FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. Please note if the goals evolved over the course of the year, and any significant insights gained while pursuing these goals. If {{ Q1 }} County did not have a specific goal for Supporting Caregivers in FY 2017-18, please briefly explain why a specific goal was not needed.

Los Angeles County FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan outlined the following activities for Supporting Caregivers:

Caregiver Support Groups: Implementation of support groups for both current caregivers and those who have adopted children from out-of-home care.

Sponsorship for Caregiver Conferences: Provide limited sponsored attendance to existing caregivers and adoptive parents to attend the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) Conference and/or the Annual North American Conference on Adoptable Children (NACAC) conference or similar events.

Resource Events by Foster Parent Liaisons: To facilitate networking and increased access to resources, the Foster Parent Liaisons will arrange for resource providers to attend appreciation events.

Fostering Families Today Magazine: Provide caregivers with a subscription to the Fostering Families magazine designed to educate them on the needs of children in out-of-home care. The magazine will also include an insert in the center to inform caregivers of L A County specific information.

Over the course of the year, the goals evolved. Due to staffing resources we were not able to fully implement support groups for our non-related caregivers. Support Groups were offered through our RSS contracts for relatives/NREFMs.

We also established a Resource Family Advisory Council that meets monthly to address improved collaboration and teaming with department staff and our non-related caregivers.

Page 36: D-5.2 Supporting Caregivers

Q98 1. Which specific services and supports did Supporting Caregivers activities provide? Select ALL that apply.

Caregiver Support,

Caregiver Training

Normalizing Activities

Placement Support Staff,

Other (please describe):

Support Groups

Q99 2. Please describe in detail how Supporting Caregivers activities were implemented.

In FY 2017-18, Los Angeles County Supported Caregivers by utilizing FPRRS funding to sponsor 50 caregivers to attend the California State Foster Parent Annual Conference. We also hosted a resource parent appreciation luncheon for 50 caregivers and provided the Fostering Families Today magazine to approximately 6,000 resource families on a bimonthly basis.

For relatives/NREFMs, Los Angeles County contracts with 10 community based organizations to provide Relative Support Services (RSS) such as advocacy and assistance securing vital support and funding resources; social and educational activities; coordinated events for caregivers and children; mentoring and tutoring for youth; transportation services and emergency assistance for needy caregivers. RSS contractors also offer psycho-educational support groups either bi-weekly or monthly that focus on increasing the caregivers' capacity to meet the needs of the children in their care, while decreasing their anxiety.

As a result of the implementation of RFA, Los Angeles County assigns all approved resource families to a "Support" social worker whose primary role is to focus on the needs of the caregiver. Our support social workers are responsible for assisting caregivers in maintaining their approval standard as established in the RFA Written Directives, while also providing referrals to additional services and supports to assist the resource parent in providing quality care to placed children.

Q100 3. Does {{ Q1 }} County have an ongoing sustainability plan for these activities? A sustainability plan can include efforts by {{ Q1 }} County or by other parties.

YES (please describe):

Los Angeles County plans to continue providing support groups through our RSS contracts, but the ability to develop support groups for non-related caregivers, sponsor caregivers to attend conferences, provide the Fostering Family Today magazine and host appreciation events will need to be considered and prioritized based on available funding resources after FPRRS funding has ceased.

Q101 3a. Does {{ Q1 }} County intend to fund these activities after FPRRS funding has ceased?	NO (Please describe alternate methods by which {{ Q1 }} County intends to provide the services and supports by these activities.): While Los Angeles County intends to fund support services for relatives/NREFMs through our RSS contracts, our ability to continue these services, sponsor caregivers to attend conferneces, provide the Fostering Families Today magazine and host appreciation events will be impacted if the Title IVE waiver is not extended. Los Angeles County will utilize AB2129 funds for critical support services after FPRRS funding has ceased.
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Page 38: D-5.2 Supporting Caregivers

Q102 4. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County met its goals.

Los Angeles County met our FY 2017-18 Supporting Caregivers goal by utilizing Foster Parent Liaisons to facilitate sponsoring caregivers to attend conferences and coordinating appreciation events. We also provided caregivers with a bimonthly Fostering Families Today magazine subscription, and support groups were offered through our RSS contractors for relatives/NREFMs.

To improve our partnership with our resource families, we also developed a Resource Parent Advisory Committee to address systemic concerns and collaborate to resolve issues that negatively impact their experiences as caregivers.

Q103 5. Please describe any advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Supporting Caregivers activities.

None

Q104 6. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County did not meet its goals.

Not applicable

Q105 7. For any unmet goals, tell us the barriers and/or challenges which prevented the goal from being met. Are there any lessons learned from the attempt to meet the goal which may be disseminated to other counties facing similar circumstances?

One challenge faced by Los Angeles County was the need to utilize our Foster Parent Liaisons for other urgent assignments (i.e. assessing caregivers who moved or requested capacity increases) which impacted their ability to focus soley on support activities for non-related caregivers.

Q106 8. Please describe any noteworthy barriers to implementation, advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Supporting Caregivers activities, not already described above.

Not applicable

Page 39: D-5.3 Supporting Caregivers

Q107 1. If these activities affected children in care, please enter the number of children affected.

0

Q108 2. Please briefly state how they were affected.

We are unable to quantify the number of children affected by our Supporting Caregivers activities due to the varying number of placements in the homes of the caregivers. Caregivers that attend the RSS support groups, attended a conference or appreciation event, or read articles in the Fostering Families Today magazine were able to use the information they receievd to better prepare them to meet the needs of the children in their care. The increased knowledge and skills of our caregivers positively impacts placement stability and supports our goal of reducing congregate care.

Q109 3. If these activities affected caregivers, please enter the number of caregivers affected.

0

Q110 4. Please briefly state how they were affected.

This survey does not allow for the number of caregivers affected to be entered. In Los Angeles County, a total of 6,000 families received the bimonthly Fostering Families Today magazine, and 100 caregivers attended a confernece or appreciation event. Caregivers benefitted from the magazines and conference as they reported feeling more equipped to care for children. In addition, caregivers reported appreciating the ability to network with other resource families at the appreciation events.

Q111 5. Given the outcomes achieved, please describe what (if anything) {{ Q1 }} County would do differently to address its Supporting Caregivers goals, or what you intend to change going forward.

Moving forward, to address Supporting Caregivers, Los Angeles County is exploring providing funding for children placed with resource families to participate in extracurricular activities.

Page 40: D-5.4 Supporting Caregivers

Q112 1. FPRRS - State General Fund

84177

Q113 2. FPRRS - Federal IV-E

0

Q114 3. Non-FPRRS

4046900

Page 41: D-5.5 Supporting Caregivers

Q115 1. Will {{ Q1 }} County continue to address the unmet goals?

YES (Please provide additional information and/or any proposed new activities involved.):
Supporting Caregivers is a critical aspect of our ability to retain quality caregivers. Our caregivers have identified extracurricular activities for children as a high priority. We are working on increasing our RSS contracts by 10% to fund extracurricular activities for children placed with relatives and NREFMs, and we are developing a process to fund these activities for non-related caregivers. We will also host an appreciation event in December 2018, sponsor caregivers to attend the NFPA conference in Orange County, CA in May 2019, and provide the Fostering Families Today magazine bimonthly. When we fund these activities for our caregivers, they feel appreciated, heard, supported and are better prepared to care for children.

Q116 2. Does {{ Q1 }} County have any new goals related to Supporting Caregivers for FY 2018-19?

YES (Please describe these new goals in detail. Please include how your existing activities will address these new goals and, if applicable, please outline any new Supporting Caregivers activities that you are proposing to implement to address these goals.):
During FY 2018-19, our new goals related to Supporting Caregivers include: 1) Funding extracurricular activities (such as camps, music lessons, sporting events, etc.) for children placed in out-of-home care 2) Amending our Fostering Families Today magazine contract to allow for the completion of an online test for training credits 3) Providing the Kin-Care Today magazine to the RSS CBOs for our relative/NREFM caregivers.

Page 42: E. Comments

Q117 Please use the box below for any comments, questions, or concerns about the survey or the use of Survey Monkey.

Respondent skipped this question